

*Stephen Blount⁸⁴ to John Gray Blount*Savanah 16th. [May?] 1800

Dear Sir —

Your kin^d fav^r. of the 22^d. de^r. 1799 came to Hand 2 or 3 Weeks ago, since which, Have not Had any certain, or safe conveyance, for an answer untill the present by Captⁿ. Camron who shew me a memorandum from you relative to the business you wrote me on, Shou^d have gone in myself only for business of Importance, that demanded my presence Here, Inclosed my good Sir, are such proofs, of the neagroe Cupid being the lawfull property of the estate of Edw:^d Fitzjarl decs^d as I Hope Will be Suficient to Justify your delivering the said neagroe, as well paying the amount claimd in my affadavit, for Hire & detention of Him, in justice to the orphans, I should Have Augmented the Wage of the neagroe, in proportion to the enhance^d Value of labour in this part of the country, but did not know, How far the laws of your State, might authorize my doing it, However Sir, you can inform me by letter, which will thank you to do, wheather I can with propriety (consistant with your laws) lay in an additional Claim for the detention of s^d neagroe, agreeable to the advanced Value of labour Here, if so, be pleased at the same time, to inform me the necessary Vouchers & proofs, to establish the s^d advance, it may be (in order to inable you to judge better on the business) properly to inform you, that I Hired this neagroe Cupid to s^d Doct^r. M^c. Kenzee⁸⁵ on the 15th. June 1794 at the Wages of ten pounds Sterling for one year, at the experation of s^d. period the Doct^r. was to return me the neagroe, & pay the wages, & during which term, was not to take the s^d neagroe beyond the limits of South Carolina, since which time, Have neither seen the doct^r, negroe, or wages, then cant I, with propriety, & ought I not in justice to the [2] Orphans, claim the use, agreeable to the annual progression of the labour of neagroes Have, in proportion to the abilities of the fellow Cupid[?] I Shall be Govern^d. Sir by your opinion relative to any pursuit for augmentation[.] Will esteem it an additional fav my good sir, if you conceive the s^d proofs Suficient to authorize your delivering the neagroe &

⁸⁴ A lawyer of Savannah, Georgia. See D. B. Mitchell to Stephen Blount, May 2, 1801; Stephen Blount to John Gray Blount, July 11, 1800, in this volume; *Raleigh Register* and Stephen Blount to John Gray Blount, July 11, 1800, in this volume. No kinship with the Tar River Blounts has been established.

William MacKenzie was already deceased; the Blount's friend died on September 27, 1810.
⁸⁵ Possibly the father of the Blount friend William MacKenzie of Martin County. This *North Carolina State Gazette*, October 4, 1810; "Census 1790," in Clark, *State Records*, XXVI, 725.